



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CITY COUNCIL IS CONCERNED ABOUT COST OF POTENTIAL EPA FINES DUE TO 48 MILLION GALLONS OF RAW SEWAGE SPILLED IN ALA WAI CANAL

With today's firm deadline from the federal government, the Department of Environmental Services submitted their report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding last month's 48 million gallon spill of raw sewage into the Ala Wai canal, the largest spill in U.S. history.

"A spill of this size will come with hefty fines from the federal government," stated Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu). "I am concerned about the taxpayers having to pay enormous fines, especially since this was an avoidable spill that has posed significant risk to public health and substantially degraded water quality in Waikiki."

The people of Honolulu experience one of the highest rates of sewage spills in the country – averaging one a week. These raw sewage spills result in beach closures, threats to public health, devastation to our environment and aquatic life, as well as negative impacts on the tourism industry. Councilmember Djou added that Honolulu's spill record reveals at least 46 sewage spills totaling more than 53 million gallons over the past 16 months.

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